

The Times-Dispatch.

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SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1903.

SUFFRAGE IN VIRGINIA.

Several days ago we reviewed an article from Harper's Weekly, in which the decision of the United States Supreme Court in the Alabama case was made the basis of an article on negro suffrage. The decision was viewed with complacency by the editor, and he went farther and to all purposes admitted that the Fifteenth Amendment was a blunder and would never have been enacted if sentiment at the North at that time had been the same as it is to-day. Moreover, the editor came about as near as he could, without absolutely committing himself, to saying that the Fifteenth Amendment ought now to be repealed.

In the last issue of Harper's Weekly is another article on the same subject, in which the editor says that it was to be expected that the decision in the Alabama case would be viewed with satisfaction in the Southern States, but that "it is a more significant and, to some extent, a surprising fact, that the decision also meets with approval at the North on the part, not only of many non-partisan newspapers, but also of some Republican organs of undisputed authority and wide influence."

But why should it be surprising? Public sentiment makes and maintains the laws of this land, and when public sentiment is against a law, even though it be a part of the organic law of the nation, that law will not be enforced. The Southern people were compelled by the necessities of the case to adopt some sort of device to prevent universal negro suffrage, as contemplated by the Fifteenth Amendment. The famous "Understanding Clause," originating in Mississippi, has since been adopted by several of the Southern States—latest of all by Virginia. Virginia was slow to take this step. There was much opposition to it, but members of the convention, after most thorough and pious discussion, finally determined that the "Understanding Clause" and the "Grandfather Clause" were the only practicable remedies.

The chief complaint by the Northern people against the "Understanding Clause" is that it does not apply alike to both races. They say that if there is to be an educational qualification it should apply to the whites as well as to the blacks. They say that the illiterate white man is as unfit to vote as the illiterate negro. But they would not say so if they were here and understood the conditions. Nor would any fair-minded man of the North condemn us for what we have done if he understood. There are illiterate white men in Virginia who are capable of voting because they have been trained in the art of government, and in spite of their illiteracy, understand the general principles and functions of government and appreciate the value of a vote. They come from a race that has been trained in the art of government, and they have received much by this inheritance, whereas the negro comes from a race of savages, which in this country became a race of slaves, and so the negro has no such inheritance. It is preposterous to compare the two.

Again, it must be remembered that but lately Virginia went through a disastrous war, and many men were in the ranks when they should have been at school. As a distinguished Virginia clergyman recently pointed out, the war in the South lasted not four years, but sixteen years, for we battled for many years after the war against negro domination. It was not until the end of this sixteen-year war that our public school system fairly began, and the men of this generation have not had the opportunities of education. To say nothing of the poor school facilities, the children were compelled to work for their living.

And so we said that it was not fair to put these men to the educational test. We refused to disfranchise men who had fought for Virginia's rights, and we refused to disfranchise white men who had not had the opportunity to educate themselves. We said there should be one day or two days in court for all these, and that we would admit such of the negroes as in our fair judgment were fit to vote. We have admitted many such negroes. We have admitted all negroes who pay as much as one dollar a year in taxes.

Another registration under this plan will be held this year, and this registration, with that of 1902, will constitute the permanent roll. But next year we begin under a new system. We now have splendid public schools, our people are fairly prosperous, and every child has the opportunity to learn. So we say that those of the rising generation, white and black, without discrimination in favor of either or against either, must submit to the educational test. In 1904 and thereafter, persons applying for registration must make out an application in their own handwriting, without assistance, and registered voters who offer to vote must prepare their ballots without assistance, except they be physically disabled. The negro will then have the same chance

that the white man has. There will be no discrimination against him and none in favor of the white man. All will stand on precisely the same footing.

Such is the Virginia system, and, under the circumstances, it is above criticism.

NO POPULISM FOR HIM.

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun quotes Congressman Allan L. McDermott, of New Jersey, as saying that the Democrats of that State are in favor of the nomination of Grover Cleveland, and in case Mr. Cleveland is not available their second choice is Senator Gorman.

Discussing the political situation in general, he mentions the rumor that many of the Populists will support Mr. Roosevelt if he is nominated by the Republican party, and adds that nothing could suit him better. "The sooner the Democratic party imprints itself of the Populist burden," said he, "the better. The Populists have never done us any good and never will."

Quite so. We made the same remark the other day, in connection with the statement from a prominent Populist in Kansas that he and Populists of his acquaintance generally were in favor of Roosevelt. The Democratic party is strongest in its integrity. It is strongest when it stands for its own principles, and when it makes no bid for the support of parties or factions which are not in direct accord with its principles. Whenever it begins to bid for the votes of Populists or Socialists or free silver Republicans, it is sure to weaken itself and to lose more than it will gain. If these people choose to vote with the Democrats, well, but it is a blunder always to cater to them by adopting any of their principles, which are contrary to our own, or by compromising any of our principles to suit their particular fancy.

MR. BRYAN STANDS PAT.

In the current issue of the Independent is an article from Mr. William J. Bryan, on "The Next Democratic Nomination." Mr. Bryan says that if the Democratic party wants to bid for the support of the plutocratic element it will nominate a silver Democrat; if it wants to bid for the support of the masses it will nominate a silver Democrat; if it does not want any support at all, and does not care to take part in the contest between man and Mammon, it will find a man who lacks either the brains or heart to take the position. "There is no possibility of compromise," he adds; "if the party is to be an effective force in politics it must go in one direction or the other, and the direction cannot long be concealed. . . . The money question is not a matter of gold and silver; it is whether there shall be sufficient volume of money or an insufficient volume of money. Gold and silver furnish more money than gold alone, and the same reason that led some to favor the gold standard as against the double standard will lead the same persons to favor some limitations upon gold coinage if the quantity of gold ever becomes sufficient to maintain the level of prices."

This shows that Mr. Bryan has not changed his position on the question of free silver, and indicates that he will be in favor of having a free silver plank in the Democratic platform. He insists that there must be no compromise. He is violently opposed to going back of the platform of 1896, and it remains to be seen how far his views will influence the convention next year. There is no use disguising the fact that Mr. Bryan is a force to be reckoned with.

Reform is the order of the day. It is about to reach the free lunch counter and threatens to work a wonderful change in it. If it does not knock it out altogether. Indeed, the New York city wine, liquor and beer dealers' association has decreed the abolition of the popular institution, so far as the city of New York is concerned. The association has also decreed an increase of from 10 to 15 cents per pint for ale, porter and beer. The association goes into print to deny the story that was in circulation that all this has been done as an act of vengeance on the farmers for voting for higher franchise and license, but actually as a measure of reform. The president of the association, Fritz Lindinger, declares that the increase in price of malt liquors by measure is a step to the doing away with the demoralizing "growler," and that the absence of the free lunch will relieve the bars of much undesirable trade; and that hotels and saloons alike will be grateful to the association, although at present there is a deal of trouble with those who don't see it so. Mr. Lindinger said, however, that "62 per cent. of the members have already fallen into step, and surely, if slowly, the remainder will follow." All of which goes to prove that even a free lunch counter and a beer shop can be made subjects of reform of one kind and another.

Seeing how completely "the Allan lot" is to be changed in appearance by the business houses being erected upon it, we are again and more forcibly than ever reminded of our duty as a community to mark the spots in this city, associated with the life of Edgar A. Poe. If they were in a New England city every one of them would be blazoned in marble or brass so that the attention of the passer-by would be arrested, and so that every child of the place would have his curiosity awakened and be led to "read up" on the subject of the tablet.

These Edgar A. Poe tablets should be erected to mark the old residence of Mr. John Allan, his adoptive father, near Fifth and Marshall Streets; his later residence, Fifth and Main Streets, and the house near the southeast corner of Main and Fifteenth Streets, in the upper floor of which was the office of the Southern Literary Messenger, when Poe was the editor of it.

The strike season in the strike afflicted city of Omaha seems to be drawing to a close, and, as usual, the strikers are coming out of the little end of the horn. The first break came the other day, when the teamsters decided that they had been loading about as long as they could afford to, and returned to work. The teamsters' union then concluded to withdraw the objectionable part of their

demand, and all their troubles ended right there. The restaurants, and the laundries and several other branches of business have been able to get back to work with non-union employees, although none of them are shutting out union men because they are union men, and a great many of them are taking their old places. There are no disturbances reported from Omaha.

Iowa is getting to be very prolific in new ideas. The latest "Iowa idea" is a "marriage commission," which has been established by law. It is to be composed of three men and three women doctors, before whom all matrimonially inclined youths and maidens must appear for examination concerning their physical and mental conditions. Just what requirements they will have to meet we know not, but they must have the certificate of the board before they can obtain license to enter into the holy estate. We apprehend that Cupid will give this "Iowa idea" about the same consideration that the Philadelphia newspapers are giving to Governor Pennypacker's new press muzzling law in Pennsylvania.

The viaduct about to be built at Jacksonville, Fla., to cover the approaches of that line to that city will be the longest structure of concrete in the world—1,245 feet. But the new cell building of the penitentiary here must take rank in importance with it; it is in height, however, not in length, that it claims distinction. This new cell house will be five stories high above a basement, and will stand about thirty feet to the front of the ancient "cell house," whose design was selected in Paris by Jefferson.

The new cell building is now well advanced beyond the ground work, and will consist almost wholly of concrete and steel structure.

A special from Baltimore says that the drought is alarming the farmers and the proprietors of canning establishments. In six weeks not a drop of rain has fallen in the great truck growing regions of the Eastern Shore and the Southern counties. There is also great complaint from New England and all the Middle Atlantic States. There has been no rain for weeks and farmers are very backward in their crops. In New Jersey there has been no rain for thirty-two days, and in Delaware the drought is alarming. The Susquehanna River is lower than at any time last year, and in some parts of Pennsylvania the people are holding meetings and praying for rain. A few showers in Virginia would be most welcome.

We are always happy when we can approve the President's actions, and we are serenely happy now that Mr. Roosevelt informs us that Mr. Roosevelt tore the soap suds and the breakfast food signs from the big California trees.

Truly we are living under a new Constitution when a justice of the peace can wait up and set aside the decision of the judge of a county court, as was done the other day in Stafford county.

The astronomers have formed a trust, and now we horny handed sons of toil will be ground to earth in trying to know if Mars is inhabited or if they sprout cabbage in the moon.

Manifest destiny against strenuously made the conditions should Messrs. Cleveland and Roosevelt be the opposing candidates for the Presidency.

Most of the favorite sons of the pivotal States seem to be hankering after second place on the tickets more than for the head of it.

A moving passenger train playing the part of a witness before a jury is something very new under a Virginia sun. It occurred in Charlotte county.

Orange county has fallen into the progressive line, and on the 1st of June will vote for a hundred thousand dollars' worth of good roads.

Governor Yates, of Illinois, gets madder and madder every day because he signed that Mueller municipal ownership bill.

We could manage to stand a little more murky water from the noble James if we can't get a rain at any other cost.

A reasonable combination: The small boy, the June apple and the New York Sun's famous prescription.

Like the bull dog in old Bob Jones' ten yard, the Philadelphia pears have "done gone and eat up their muzzle."

Leesburg is in the throes of a municipal campaign, and the sun shines so hot in old Loudoun, too.

Dignified and virtuous old Alexandria is reporting highway robberies and hold-ups. Too bad.

There seem yet to be entirely too many sides to the harmony question, sides that refuse to harmonize.

They smile: The summer resort man and the ice dealer.

Without honor in old Virginia: The dry weather prophet.

If you want to have a hot time, talk about the weather.

Personal and General.

Rear-Admiral Higginson will relieve Rear-Admiral Terry as commandant of the Washington Navy Yard on July 1st.

Mrs. Lionel Ross Anthony has been appointed World's Fair commissioner for Colorado (Denver). Presumably she is the only woman who is a commissioner of the St. Louis Fair.

During the fifteen years that Rev. Dr. Charles Herald was pastor of the Bethesda Congregational Church, of Brooklyn, more than 100 members were added to the congregation.

Mayor Seth Low, of New York, despite his pleasant smile and cordial grasp of his hand, is regarded by those who have occasion to do much public business with him as a cold man. He has never shown one spark of temper since elected to the office of Mayor, and this is a case of remarkable self-control. It is asserted, as he has a temper that would blaze up if he would let it.

Archbishop Quigley makes the prediction that the United States will eventually be "exclusively Catholic." He said in Chicago last week: "Since I have seen the Western Catholic schools I have come to the conclusion that in fifty years, if things go on as I see they are doing at present, the Catholic Church will eventually cover the West."

Half Hour With Virginia Editors.

The Lynchburg Advance speaking of the action of the Legislature in regard to one of our schools, says:

The way to improve the quality of our primary schools is to give better preparation to the teachers who are to have the management of them, and in doing this the Normal plays a leading part. It sets a high standard and this will go a long way toward raising the general average of qualifications in the State.

The Norfolk Ledger has this to say: A correspondent of the Richmond Times-Dispatch, whose letter appeared in last Sunday's issue of that paper, states that along the Norfolk and Western Railway, between Petersburg and Lynchburg, a distance of one hundred and twenty-three miles, there is not a single licensed school teacher. When all portions of the State are heard from 't will be found, we think, that outside the cities of the Commonwealth, but very few licenses have been granted for the sale of liquor.

The Charlottesville Progress says: Under present conditions let the issue be, not Bryan vs. Cleveland, but Democracy vs. Republicanism. Be true and loyal to the party and help to reformulate its principles, if necessary.

The Norfolk Virginian says: Judge Campbell is appealing to his friends to vindicate him some more. There is a more or less widespread opinion in the State that to incur that vindication would not help matters much.

These few remarks are from the Harrisonburg News: The Virginians in New York celebrated "Jamestown Day" last week by an elaborate banquet and speech-making. The "Jamestown Express" promoters are looking forward to one long sweet dream of celebration when the \$25,000 State appropriation becomes available.

Charles Rozan, who for the past fifty years has acted as a special teacher of French to German diplomats appointed to Paris, has lately received the Order of the Red Eagle of Prussia and that of St. Michael of Bavaria.

Lord Kelvin, who has come before the public again in connection with some scientific discussions in London, has been called "the greatest all-around man of science living."

The Pope will be the godfather of the ninety-three children born at Rome on March 3d, which was the twenty-fifth anniversary of his accession to the papacy. It is singular that the number of children born on that day should be the same as the number of years of the Pope's life. The Pope has given each child an outfit of clothes and 100 lire.

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Concord Tribune: Regardless of the fact that friends of several gentlemen claim flattering chances of their securing the Democratic nomination, the candidate for that honor is yet in the dice-box.

Charlotte Observer: There is considerable clamor in the papers about the President being in the West so long. It is argued that he should return to Washington and resume his duties. What for? The government seems to be getting along very well without him, and really, if it were not for the papers, the people would not know but what he was in the White House.

Raleigh Post: The real Democrats of the North and the South make up the vast majority of the people of this country. They are the people who should control the party if it is desired to win a victory for the people or even maintain a respectable majority in opposition to the interests of cradled states. They are the people who should return to Washington and resume their duties. What for? The government seems to be getting along very well without him, and really, if it were not for the papers, the people would not know but what he was in the White House.

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The Tennessee University, built by Dr. Dabney, is the largest in the world, having over 2,000 students and touches and influences the school work of the entire South. All this is the result of his tireless energy, his wise guidance and his persistence in doing and having done what he deemed should be done.

Sixth—Dr. Dabney is in close touch with and is held in high esteem by the leaders of the great educational movements of to-day, and the men of great means whose whole-hearted philanthropy seeks to do great things for the South.

Seventh—Dr. Dabney has given much thought to the question of the public schools of the South, and if placed at the head of the University of Virginia, will establish vital connection between the University and the school system, and only of the State, but of the entire South, and will make the University in reality the cap-stone of the system of education in the South, which is now assuming great proportions.

Eighth—Dr. Dabney is in close touch and sympathy with all Virginia's noble past, and with the historic glory of our honored University. He will keep sacred her traditions, which are an inheritance of his race, and he will maintain, not destroy, it. He will build up and add to, not tear down.

Ninth—He is a Christian gentleman, and his guidance will make for peace in all her borders. His presence at this great school that we all love and honor will be a benediction. His untiring energy, guided by common sense and caution, will be an inspiration to all.

C. E. VAWTER, Miller School, Va., May 20th.

A Few Foreign Facts.

King Christian, of Denmark, although eighty-five years old, will leave in a few days for Paris, to return the visit of President Loubet, and later he will return King Edward's visit.

It is reported that Miss Bertha Krupp, daughter of the late millionaire of Essen, who has been married to a young man in Europe, will wed the son of a prominent banker of Cologne.

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